

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A synthetic, non-cytopathic negative-strand RNA virus replicon comprising

a) a nucleotide sequence of said RNA virus, wherein the sequence of all glycoprotein gene units are one or more structural genes is inactivated or deleted; and

b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker suitable for selection, wherein said sequence encoding a selectable marker is under the control of the RNA virus replication machinery and wherein the replicon can be used to biologically select cells containing stable, replicating, non-cytotoxic replicons.

2. (Original) The replicon of claim 1, wherein said sequence encoding a selectable marker is a gene that confers resistance to an antibiotic.

3. (Original) The replicon of claim 2 wherein said gene is a *bsd* gene.

4. (Original) The replicon of claim 1, further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous protein.

5. (Original) The replicon of claim 1 further comprising a reporter gene.

6. (Original) The replicon of claim 5, wherein said reporter gene is a gene encoding green fluorescent protein (GFP).

7. (Original) The replicon of claim 1 wherein said RNA virus is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

8. (Original) The replicon of claim 7, wherein the sequence encoding the F, G and SH glycoproteins is deleted.

9. (Original) The replicon of claim 8 wherein said sequence encoding a selectable marker is a gene that confers resistance to an antibiotic.

10. (Original) The replicon of claim 9, wherein said gene is a *bsd* gene.

11. (Original) The replicon of claim 10, further comprising a reporter gene.

12. (Original) The replicon of claim 11 wherein said reporter gene is a gene encoding GFP.

13. (Original) A cell line comprising the replicon of claim 1.

14. (Original) The replicon of claim 12, wherein said replicon is harbored in a cell line selected from the group consisting of BHK-RR-B51E (ATCC deposit number PTA-5257) and HeLa-RR-B51S (ATCC deposit number PTA-5258).

15. (Original) The replicon of claim 12, further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous protein.

16. (Currently amended) A plasmid encoding a cDNA of a non-cytopathic negative-strand RNA virus replicon comprising

a) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the genome of a non-cytopathic negative-strand RNA virus ~~said RNA virus~~, wherein the sequence encoding all glycoprotein gene units are one or more structural genes is inactivated or deleted;

b) a nucleotide sequence comprising a heterologous promoter sequence operatively linked to said sequence of a); and

c) a nucleotide sequence comprising a gene encoding a selectable marker suitable for selection, wherein said gene is under the control of the RNA virus replication machinery and

wherein the replicon can be used to biologically select cells containing stable, replicating, non-cytotoxic replicons.

17. (Currently Amended) The plasmid eDNA of claim 16, wherein said heterologous promoter sequence is selected from the group consisting of T7 polymerase promoter, cytomegalovirus immediate early promoter, SV40 early promoter and polymerase I promoter.
18. (Currently Amended) The plasmid eDNA of claim 16 wherein said promoter is a T7 polymerase promoter.
19. (Currently Amended) A replicon encoded by the plasmid eDNA of claim 16.
- 20.-32. (Canceled)